

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of:

Georges SMITS

Filed: July 20, 2000

For: PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF CHICORY INULIN ...

DOCKET:

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The Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendments be made to the above-identified application prior to examination.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-28, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 29-64 as follows:

--29. Process for the manufacture of chicory inulin from chicory roots through conventional manufacturing techniques, characterized in that:

- the source material for the process are roots of chicory which have been grown in appropriate regions and have been grown and processed under proper climatological temperature conditions which are such that during a period of at least from the beginning of the third month of the growing period till the end of the processing of the chicory roots the FEH gene in the chicory roots has not been triggered by the occurrence of low temperature conditions,